


















# Bugged about pesticides?

Whether you see them or not, you know they are there — in your home and garden, on your pets, in restaurants, at oil fields. They are pests — insects, weeds, fungi, rodents, bacteria and others.






Because pests are everywhere, create a nuisance and sometimes cause serious public health problems and severe financial loss, consumers are turning increasingly to pesticides to control pests.

Pesticides are substances intended to prevent, kill, control, and repel any pest. These chemicals are hazardous. They work because they are *toxic*. By following these tips you can reduce the risks:

-  All pesticides must bear an EPA registration number and EPA-approved label.
-  Read entire label. Using pesticides inconsistent with label directions is against Federal (FIFRA) and state (18 AAC 90) law.
-  Do not purchase a “restricted-use” pesticide unless you’re DEC certified.
-  Use amount recommended, at the site and for the purposes listed. More is not better, it’s illegal!
-  Look for the signal words on the label. It will show the pesticide’s toxicity: DANGER (high), WARNING (moderate), CAUTION (low).
-  Wear the protective clothing the label requires.

-  Keep children and animals away.
-  If a pesticide spill occurs, contain the spill, then clean it up with absorbent material, place it in a plastic bag, and dispose of it at a hazardous waste collection center.
-  Do not reenter the area for the time recommended on the label.
-  Never place baits where children and pets can reach them.
-  Avoid applying pesticides near wells and waterbodies.
-  Keep pesticides on the pests, don’t let it drift to nontarget areas.
-  Never smoke, drink, or eat while using pesticides.
-  Wash thoroughly after using.
-  When using insect repellents, especially on children, use compounds with the lowest percentage of active ingredient.
-  Store away from children, pets, and ignition sources (many are flammable).
-  Dispose of small amounts of concentrate still in the product container either through use or at a hazardous waste collection center.



-  Do not pour down the sink or toilet.
-  Do not reuse a pesticide container or transfer a pesticide from its original container.
-  Commercial pest control operators must be DEC certified.
-  Evaluate the results of your pesticide treatment and what level of control is acceptable.
-  **THE LABEL IS THE LAW!**

Pesticides must be used very carefully to achieve results and still protect users and the environment. You can cut back on pesticide use by considering safer alternatives. Call DEC Pesticide Program at 1-800-478-2577 for any questions about pesticides.

**Pesticide Program**  
**Alaska Department of**  
**Environmental Conservation**  
**Palmer, Alaska 99645**

**phone 1-800-478-2577**  
**(907)745-3236**  
**fax: 745-8125**